

March 3, 2009

Wailuku Meeting @ Neighborhood Place

Attendees: Officer Denis Cabacungan, MPD
Officer Grace, MPD
Sheri Dodson, HPHA BOD, Habitat for Humanity
Chad Taniguchi, HPHA E.D.
Alan Sagayaga, HPHA
Maude Cummings, Family Life Center
Mary Meier, HPHA
Ione Godsey, HPHA
Milton Kekiwi, HPHA
Greg DelaCruz, Neighborhood Place
Evelyn Ferreira, Kahekili Terrace
Councilman Mike Victorino
Stephanie Ohigashi, Councilman Victorino's Assistant

Issues:

- 1) **Community/Tenant Patrol:** MPD Officers Grace and Cabacungan reported that due to C&C Budget cut backs, officers were not able to receive overtime pay, which enabled them to participate in the community/tenant walks. **Result:** Tenants have noticed a return of vagrants to the area. HPHA Management sent a letter to Chief of Police Thomas Phillips requesting reconsideration.
- 2) **Safe Communities Program:** Discussed stimulus package and possibility of funding to aid the neighborhood. Police presence is the first deterrent to crime. Councilmember Mike Victorino discussed the possibility of participating in one of the community walks.
- 3) **Live-In Police Officer:** Discussed offering a unit on property to a police officer, possibly a recruit? **Result:** Officer Grace to present offer to Lt. Wallace Tom for consideration.
- 4) **Neighborhood Crime Watch:** Officers Cabacungan and Grace stated that MPD is willing to participate in training volunteers for this program. They reconfirmed that at no time, should personal safety be jeopardized.
- 5) **Act 34, Prohibits the consumption of alcohol within public housing common areas and sidewalks, effective January 1, 2009:** Discussed a particular incident where tenant and guests were drinking in the common area, MPD was called and responded but no one was arrested. Following MPD's departure, tenant and guests continued to consume alcohol and disturb neighbors. **Response:** MPD Officers stated it's a very difficult law to enforce because the officer must actually witness the perpetrator consuming the alcohol, which is a petty misdemeanor. In most instances, MPD officers will use their own discretion in handling a situation. Chad Taniguchi stated that there may be additional changes to this law whereby possession as well as consumption will be prohibited within public housing

- common areas and sidewalks. Currently in County Parks, the consumption of alcohol is prohibited. HPHA Management issued a violation to tenant.
- 6) **Security Cameras:** Discussed the possibility of security cameras located in strategic areas. **Result:** Currently no funding but may be a possibility with the Stimulus Package freeing up some funds for Statewide cameras.
 - 7) **Roving Security Patrols:** Discussed previous suggestions of partnering with other community members, such as Wailuku Town Association and Roy Katsuda, and sharing the cost of roving patrols, or possibly getting a grant. Councilman Mike Victorino discussed the importance of Security Presence starting off with one month of concerted effort, and then slowly cutting back. Suggested 2 patrolmen, 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. in the beginning then reduce accordingly. Private security may be able to cite violators for illegal alcohol consumption and HPHA follow up with a violation letter, which could lead to possible eviction from housing. **Result:** MPD officers stated violation could be documented and a MPD face page faxed to HPHA Manager for stronger case against violators.
 - 8) **Cost of Security Patrols:** Due to limited competition, security costs on Maui are very expensive. **Result:** Due to the poor economy, rates maybe more reasonable.
 - 9) **Councilman Mike Victorino:** reported that air conditioners will be installed at Iao Theatre. He is working to complete Wailuku revitalization plans for Happy Valley to include from the bridge to Mokuahau Road. He also reported that the County received a grant to purchase the old Hardware store and the Neighborhood Place of Wailuku will be relocating there.
 - 10) **Rent Delinquencies:** 10 families referred for eviction for rent delinquencies totaling \$61,010.70. Additional 8 families in the process of being referred for eviction totaling \$25,349.95. Last eviction board hearing February 5, 2009 and tenant was evicted from public housing.
 - 11) **Vacancies:** Currently 48 vacant units in Maui (Federal) and 15 vacant units in Molokai (Federal and State). Total 63 vacancies: 42 units assigned to Construction Management Section, 15 units ready to Place, 1 unit roof leak, 5 units assigned to HPHA maintenance.